

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00420 311720Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01 INR-07 HA-05
/039 W

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FM USLO RIYADH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 234

UNCLAS RIYADH 420

USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA

SBJ: MEDIA REACTION PRESIDENTIAL TRIP AND VANCE COMMENTS
12/31/77

1. PRESIDENTIAL AND SECSTATE COMMENTS ON M.E. SITUATION RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PLAY IN LOCAL DAILIES. AL-RIYADH'S HEADLINE NOTES QTE...VANCE EMPHASIZES: THE U.S. DID NOT APPROVE OF BEGIN'S PLAN...ENQTE. OKAZ IN ITS HEADLINES CITED SECSTATE VANCE'S COMMENTS THAT WEST BANK SHOULD BE LINKED WITH JORDAN; THAT SADAT VIEWS PRES. CARTER'S STATEMENT ABOUT PALESTINIAN STATE AS A QTE...SURPRISE AND EMBARRASSMENT ...ENQTE; AND FINALLY THAT THE PLO IS CALLING FOR REPRISALS AGAINST AMERICAN INTERESTS.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT RANGED FROM MILDLY OPTIMISTIC TO HIGHLY CRITICAL. THREE EDITORIALS IN OKAZ RAN THE GAMUT FROM COMMENTS THAT GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BECAUSE BEGIN NO LONGER REFERS TO THE WEST BANK AS QTE...LIBERATED LAND ENQTE..., BUT AS POSSIBLE SITE OF PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE. OTHER EDITORIALS IN SAME PAPER CITE SADAT'S DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CARTER'S STATEMENTS AND CONCLUDE THAT U.S. NO LONGER SUITABLE TO ACT AS MEDIATOR IN M.E. DISPUTE. RATHER IMPASSIONED
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PAGE 02 RIYADH 00420 311720Z

EDITORIAL ENDS IN CALL TO QTE...REGAIN LOST RIGHTS... ENQTE THROUGH ARAB SOLIDARITY RATHER THAN THROUGH THIRD-PARTY MEDIATION. AL-MEDINA DEVOTED THREE EDITORIALS TO THE M.E. SITUATION, INDICATING GENERALLY THAT ISRAEL HAS REJECTED SADAT'S PEACE OVERTURES: QTE...SADAT HAS EMBARKED ON A VERY DANGEROUS POLITICAL STEP IN THE HISTORY OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE

...IN RETURN THE ZIOISTS ONLY OFFER TO NAME SADAT FOR
A NEBEL PEACE PRIZE...ENQTE.

3. ONLY THE AL-RIYADH DAILY NOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S
DISCUSSION OF LAND FORCE-REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE AND HIS
PROMISE TO DEFEND WESTERN ALLIES AGAINST ANY SURPRISE
ATTACK AND TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH POLISH OFFICIALS.
STEWART

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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